



Volunteer Virginia

A newsletter for the service and faith community

Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service | April, 2015

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Information is Good



Tell a friend or colleague about this issue.

April Volunteerism and Service Events

Volunteer Week is a Time to Thank Your Volunteers

Don't forget to recognize your volunteers for all that they do for your organization April 12-18, National Volunteer Week. A program of Points of Light, Volunteer Week is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities.



- Get event ideas, social media tips and downloads from the [National Volunteer Week Resource Guide](#).
- Follow [@VAService](#) on Twitter and like [Virginia Service](#) on Facebook and let us know what you're doing for Volunteer Week.
- Follow [@PointsofLight](#) and #NVW on Twitter and like [Points of Light](#) on Facebook.
- Governor McAuliffe has issued a [Proclamation](#) marking April 12-18 Volunteer Week in Virginia.

Community Leaders to Honor National Service

April 7 has been designated as the third annual [Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service](#) and the first ever [County Day for National Service](#). Local elected officials and other leaders will honor the achievements of national service in their communities by visiting programs in their areas, awarding outstanding participants, inviting members to discuss local community problems, serve with programs as a "member for the day," and more. Virginia's mayors and county executives will also hold public events and use traditional and social media to highlight the value of national service. [See photos from last year's event](#).



Virginia Volunteerism Conference: Call for Exhibitors!

Exhibitor Registration is NOW OPEN for the 2015 Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference, September 30-October 1, in Roanoke. This year's event will give organizations access to the volunteer and human service sector from across Virginia. Register online through [Black Tie America](#). Additional information for exhibitors can be found on vaservice.org. Early Bird Registration will begin for individuals June 15.



Kicking Off Summer Meals Programs for Kids

Grants for Summer Meals Programs Available

If your school division, government agency, or community-based organization is interested in starting, expanding, or strengthening their involvement with the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option, it may be eligible for a Share Our Strength grant of up to \$3,000. Applications that receive full funding will align with the No Kid Hungry Campaign's goals of access, education, and awareness as outlined at nokidhungry.org. Visit the [grant application webpage](#) and, if you choose to apply, use code VASUMMER2015 to create an account and file the grant application. Contact Eddie Oliver, Virginia No Kid Hungry Program Manager, with any questions related to summer grants or other resources for expanding meal programs at eddie.oliver@governor.virginia.gov or 804-692-2583. [More](#).



Your Organization Could Provide Summer Hunger Relief!

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is looking for financially viable organizations that can serve meals to children during the summer months as part of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Organizations that participate in the SFSP will be reimbursed by the VDH for the meals that are served and some administrative costs, as well as receive technical assistance from VDH. All participating sponsors are required to attend the

View Past Issues

Miss an issue of *Virginia Volunteer*? View the [archives](#).

Contribute

Have a news item or calendar event you want to see on *Virginia Volunteer*? Send comments to info@vaservice.org

SFSP training provided by the VDH. [More](#).

AmeriCorps Week Events Throughout the Commonwealth

AmeriCorps members throughout the Commonwealth were recognized for their service and dedication during AmeriCorps Week, March 9-13. Governor McAuliffe released a [Proclamation](#) which recognized the 6,400 Virginia AmeriCorps members' accomplishments at 930 locations last year. AmeriCorps programs throughout the Commonwealth held informational events, service projects, and went out into their communities to spread the word about AmeriCorps. [See photos from this year's AmeriCorps Week activities](#).



Plan Now for Older Americans Month in May

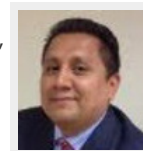
The Administration for Community Living has published outreach materials to support communities celebrating [Older Americans Month](#) this May. The 2015 observance theme, "Get Into the Act," honors the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act and emphasizes older adults taking charge of their health and getting engaged in their communities. The available materials include posters, sample social media, event ideas, document templates, and more.



Get to Know Richard Cabellos

Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

Richard Cabellos contributes his commitment to service and volunteerism to his ongoing work with youth, teens, adults, and seniors in his community. Mr. Cabellos, who grew up in Northern Virginia, graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University where he received his bachelor of arts degree in Political Science and minored in Latin American Studies. He has worked in local government for more than eight years and currently manages a thriving community center in Reston. On a daily basis, Mr. Cabellos works to create recreational and educational programs for a very diverse population. As a public servant, he frequently works with politicians, community leaders, nonprofits, businesses, and especially volunteers. "Without the commitment to service from my staff and countless volunteers," he says, "the community center I work for wouldn't have become the multicultural, all-inclusive and informational hub that it is today."



Tax Technical Support for Exempt Organizations

IRS Resources for Nonprofits

With the tax deadline fast approaching, your organization may have some last-minute questions or concerns regarding your status. Visit the [Charities and Nonprofits homepage](#) on the IRS.gov website, call 1-877-829-5500, or utilize one of the following additional resources:

- [EO Select Check](#)
- [A-Z Index](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Stay Exempt](#)
- [Life Cycle](#)
- [Free articles for your publications](#)
- [Subscribe to the EO Update](#)



Webinar for Last-Minute Tax Filing

The Taxpayer Opportunity Network is offering a free online webinar entitled "[Using Free Online Tax Filing to Provide Filing Options during End of Season Rush and Post-Filing Season](#)," Friday, April 3, 1-2pm. Utilizing free online filing options can be a great way to stretch your limited tax preparation capacity and focus preparation assistance on the taxpayers who need help with prior year returns and other more complex issues. The webinar will discuss which returns are eligible to be filed online, options for filing extensions, the last day taxpayers can file online, and ideas about helping taxpayers complete returns online post-season.

What is the IRS Letter 5071C?

The IRS is continually looking at ways to increase data security and protect taxpayers' identities. The [IRS Letter 5071C](#) informs taxpayers that the IRS needs additional information to verify their identity in order to process their tax return accurately. The IRS is being inundated with

questions from filers regarding the content and validity of the letter. A [Q&A Document](#) has been created to assist with questions about the letter.

Virginia Honors Outstanding Mentors

The Virginia Mentoring Partnership held its 13th Annual Virginia Mentoring Awards & Conference on March 19, at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond. **Tim Grimes of Richmond** and **Robert Sowell of Fairfax County** were honored as Outstanding Mentors of the Year. Mr. Grimes, a mentor with AMP! Metro Richmond for seven years, has had a passion and commitment for mentoring for almost two decades. Mr. Sowell, has been mentoring children in Fairfax County Public Schools since 2006, and served as a catalyst for establishing a mentoring partnership with his company, Apple Federal Credit Union. **Higher Achievement Richmond**, named Outstanding Mentoring Program of the Year, closes the opportunity gap during the pivotal middle school years, resulting in college-bound scholars with the character, confidence, and skills to succeed. [See photos from this year's event.](#)



National Service in Virginia

Reflections on My VISTA Year

Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2015, was founded as a national service program to fight poverty in America. VISTA members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency. About 8,000 VISTAs are placed each year in more than 1,100 projects in low-income communities around the country.

This past year VISTA member **Abby (Campbell) Hanks** served with the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service:

"This past year as a VISTA member working with the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service has been a truly educational and rewarding experience. One of the many projects I completed as a VISTA was the development of the National Service in Virginia Map. Throughout the development of this map, I worked closely with the Corporation for National and Community Service, Virginia State Office, as well as several organizations across Virginia. Personally, the VISTA experience has introduced me to a multitude of organizations and people working to make a difference in their communities and across the globe. I have gained life-long friends and colleagues who share the same passion, bringing communities and individuals out of poverty. I would recommend National Service to everyone, VISTA members at any age will gain skills in problem solving, adaptability, teamwork and leadership."



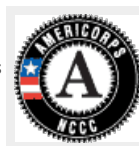
Program Spotlight: DCR Division of State Parks - Virginia Service and Conservation Corps

Virginia State Parks is gearing up for the 2015 AmeriCorps Interpretive/Trail Project. April 10-12, 25 members from as far away as South Dakota will meet at Twin Lakes State Park for orientation and training before reporting to their base park to begin service. Members will serve at parks throughout the Commonwealth from April through August to work on projects like trail building, volunteer recruitment, and interpretive programming. Past Interpretive/Trail Project members have proven to be huge assets to the State Parks system. In 2014, members recruited more than 1,600 volunteers, completed projects on more than 100 miles of trails, and delivered programs to more than 37,000 park visitors. If you visit any of Virginia's State Parks this summer and happen to see someone in AmeriCorps gear, make sure to say hello or even sign up for one of their interpretive programs or volunteer events! [See more photos from this program.](#)



Could an AmeriCorps NCCC Team Help Your Organization?

Are you DREAMING BIG about what a team of 7-10 dedicated volunteers could do for your organization in 2015? Each year, AmeriCorps NCCC engages its teams in communities across the U.S. Service projects, which typically last from two to eight weeks, address critical needs related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development. Members construct and rehabilitate low-income housing, respond to natural disasters, clean up streams, help communities develop emergency plans, and address countless other local needs. NCCC is currently inviting potential Project Sponsors in Virginia to apply for teams of developing leaders. This class marks the 21st year AmeriCorps NCCC



has been strengthening communities and developing leaders nationwide. [More.](#)

Virginia Faith-Based Initiative is a Statewide Resource

The [Virginia Faith-Based and Community Initiatives \(VFBCI\)](#) Advisory Council has been reconstituted by the Office of Volunteerism and Community Services (OVCS). The Council is intended to provide invaluable guidance and understanding of diverse faith traditions. It will work to help develop strong outcomes relating to collaborations among faith and community organizations to strengthen communities throughout the Commonwealth.

Nonprofit Resources

Grants, Scholarships & Awards

- [Vaservice.org](#) features an up-to-date, searchable database of funding and grant opportunities for service organizations. Subscribe to the Funding and Grant newsfeed and never miss an opportunity!
- [Senior Companion Program](#) applications are due April 30 from eligible organizations to operate and manage a local project in Roanoke County, Roanoke City, City of Salem, Botetourt County, Craig County, Alleghany County, Cities of Covington and Clifton Forge.
- [Face Forward Grants](#) are available to help youth with juvenile records gain job skills and start new careers. Applications are due April 23.
- The U.S. Labor Department has announced \$27 million in [Training to Work - Adult Reentry Grants](#) to help thousands of soon-to-be-released inmates become productive citizens.
- The [2015 Virginia Governor's Housing Conference Design Contest](#) is accepting home designs that meet affordability, energy and accessibility criteria. Winning submissions will receive cash prizes and the overall winner's design will be constructed by Habitat PWG.
- Students can enter the [2015 Peace Essay Contest](#) by April 20, to win cash prizes. The theme for this year's contest, "Inspiration for a Better World," is based on a quotation from the Dalai Lama. Teachers are encouraged to use the contest's writing prompt as they prepare students for the annual SOL writing tests.
- Nominations are being accepted for the [2015 Trends and Innovations Awards](#) for achievement in homeless services. Awards will be given to organizations and individuals who are addressing the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, developing initiatives to end homelessness, or strengthening our coordinated response to homelessness in Greater Richmond. Nominations are due by noon on April 10.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration is seeking nominations for the [Tibbetts and Small Business Innovation Research Hall of Fame Awards](#). The award program encourages small businesses to explore their technological potential and helps them profit from their inventions and in turn encourage economic growth and development. The deadline is April 10.

Training and Events

- [Vaservice.org](#) features a constantly-updated calendar of training opportunities and special events of interest to service organizations happening all over Virginia.
- The [Center for Nonprofit Excellence's Spring Grant Writing Series](#) is April 16-May 21, in Charlottesville. Register by April 3!
- Registration is now open for the [2015 Virginia Governor's Housing Conference](#), November 18-20, in Hampton.
- April is [Sexual Assault Prevention Month](#) and the focus is Preventing Sexual Violence on Campus.
- The Red Cross has launched an online version of its popular [Advanced Child Care Training Course](#), offering training on how to care for young children and handle emergency situations.
- Become a partner with the [Real Economic Impact Network](#), an alliance of organizations and individuals dedicated to the economic advancement of people with disabilities, for a variety of resources -- including monthly webinars, e-learning courses, fact sheets, financial education toolkit, training materials, e-newsletters, and more. [Sign up.](#)

Resources and Data

- [ConnectVA 2.0](#) is launching in April as a more user-friendly, interactive, and mobile optimized version of ConnectVA's resources. Current Users will receive an email with new login information between April 10-12. Account holders will NOT need to re-register.
- The latest [County Health Rankings](#) have been released by County Health Rankings and Roadmaps.
- A [Community Health Needs Assessment](#) is being conducted in the cities of Roanoke and Salem and the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, and Craig through April 30. The target population includes low-income individuals, uninsured or under insured individuals, and those living with chronic illnesses.
- A new [KIDS COUNT data snapshot](#) highlights the Supplemental Poverty Measure which captures the effect of safety-net programs and tax policies on families and shows that the child poverty rate has declined from 33 percent to 18 percent as a result of specific programs and policies.
- Download FEMA's [Going Off Grid: Utility Outages Activity Module](#) for simple steps to get prepared for a power outage.
- Check out these [15 Ways to Raise Funds for Your Nonprofit](#) which includes some unique and innovative approaches to raising funds.
- These [Must-Read Fundraising and Social Media Reports for Nonprofits](#) offer up some great resources and data for how to make your social media marketing efforts work successfully for your organization.

More Great Opportunities

- [Live to Serve](#) is a website where people can shop to serve the Richmond community through their everyday purchases (50-70 percent of purchases goes back to Richmond nonprofits running campaigns on the site).
- The IRS is seeking volunteers for the [Taxpayer Advocacy Panel \(TAP\)](#). TAP includes members from all 50 states appointed to represent the interests of taxpayers in his or her geographic location as well as taxpayers as a whole.

Upcoming Events

April

[National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)

[Sexual Assault Prevention Month](#)

7 - [Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service](#)

7 - [County Day for Recognition for National Service](#)

12-18 - [National Volunteer Week](#)

13 - [Virginia Child Abuse Prevention Conference](#)

17-19 - [Global Youth Service Day](#)

22 - [Earth Day](#)

30 - [Governor's Volunteerism Awards](#)

May

[National Older Americans Month](#)

[National Foster Care Month](#)

7 - [National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day](#)

18-22 - [Senior Corps Week](#)

June

[Summer Food Service Program](#)

[Let's Read. Let's Move.](#)

20 - [World Refugee Day](#)

SAVE THE DATE



[Virginia Volunteerism & Service Conference](#)

September 30-October 1, 2015

Sheraton Roanoke Hotel, Roanoke, VA

Theme: Volunteers Are Everyday Heroes:

Serving Locally & Globally

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